

10/031636

cket/Matter No. US2.Goldsborough

531 Rec'd PCTW 26 OCT 2001

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of:

Applicant : Andrew S. Goldsborough

Appl. No. :

Filed : October 26, 2001

Title : ISOLATION OF NUCLEIC ACID

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) Grp./A.U. : Unknown

) Examiner : Unassigned

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Honorable Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT
FOR APPLICATION FILED UNDER 35 U.S.C. 371**

Sir:

Prior to the issuance of a first Office Action in the above-identified patent application, please amend the application as follows:

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1 through 56, and substitute in place thereof the following new claims 1 through 7.

1. A method of isolating RNA comprising an oligo- or polynucleotide from a sample comprising the steps of:
1. (a) treating the sample with a reactant capable of covalently modifying the 2'-OH position of the ribose rings of the RNA under conditions so that a proportion of the 2'-OH positions of the ribose rings bear a substituent; and
1. (b) preparing isolated RNA therefrom by separating material containing the substituent from the sample on the basis of a property of the substituent.

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